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~ Episode Four ~

Restart

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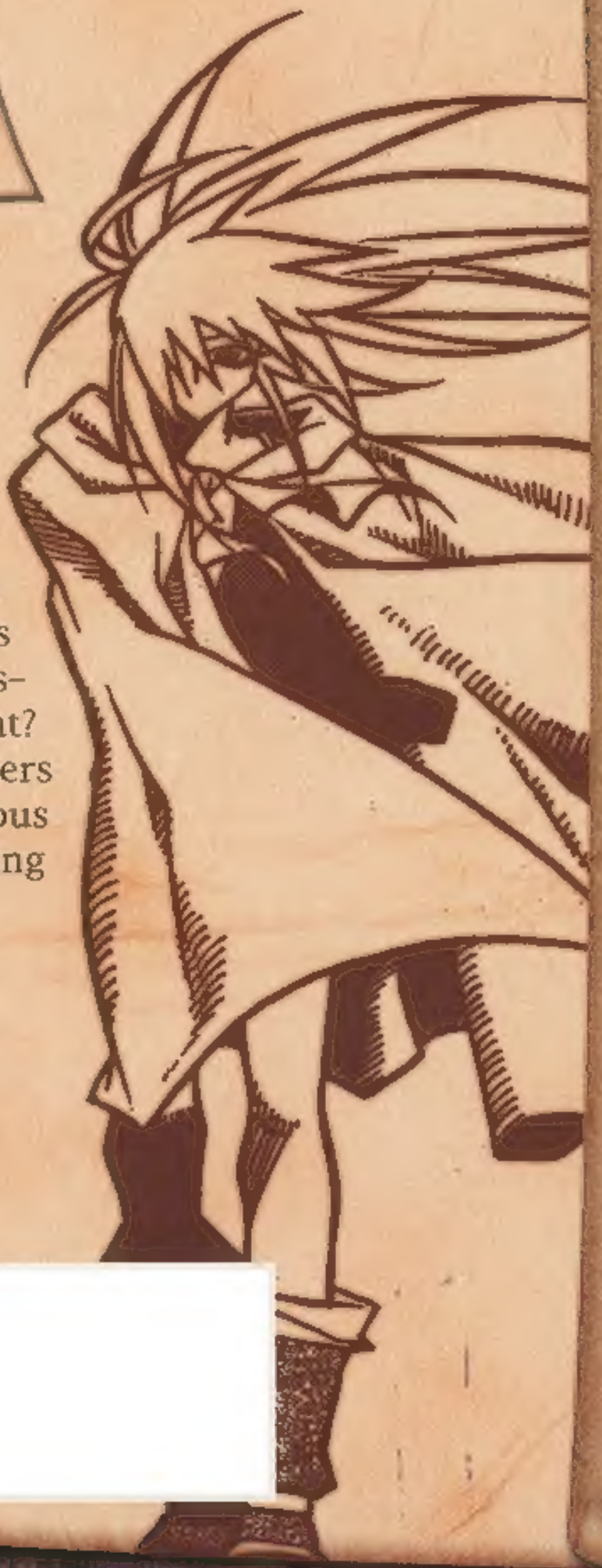

The best-selling fantasy adventure continues! Chun-Lang finally comes to grips with Gigantes as her adopted son...only to face losing him forever! Alcan uses his powers to sustain Gigantes–but will it all be for naught? Meanwhile, new characters emerge, including a mysterious masked woman who is looking to do a little harm to Sang...

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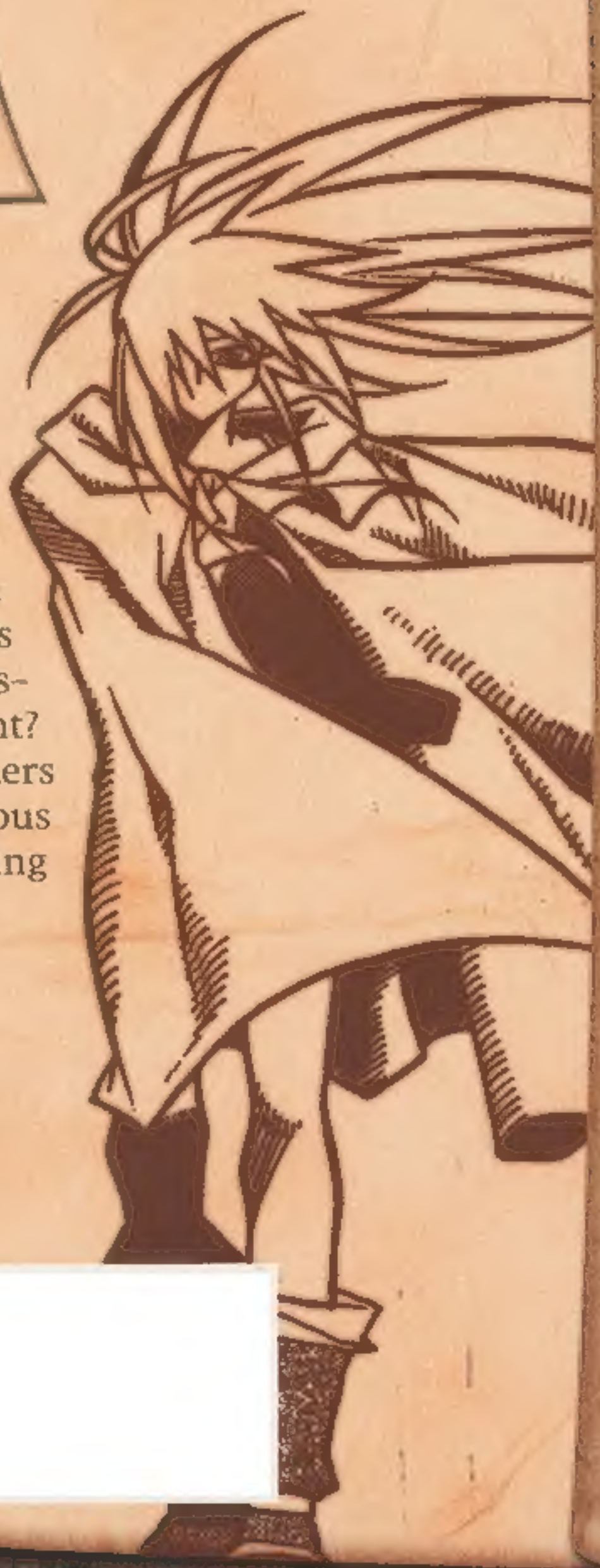

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Episode 4: Restart

Previously in...

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A spunky, ring-wearing girl named Sang searches for the Demon School Hades...and a legendary ring contained within its walls. When she encounters a group of misfit monsters that are playing hooky from school, her hunt is over. They reluctantly take her to Hades, where Sang meets Notra, a female monster who's wearing a very special ring! But before Sang can snatch Notra's ring, a group of humans from the Madosa Guild attack the school! A deadly battle ensues, and Sang fights alongside her new beastly buddies...

The battle rages on and the body count rises as the Madosa Guild continues its ruthless attack on the Demon School Hades. The Guild wants to close the doors to the Mahgae, a "lower-Earth" that is filled with monsters. Lance, leader of the Madosa Guild, seems to know Sang's true identity, and everyone starts to wonder if there may be more to her than meets the eye...

During the conflict, the power of Sang's rings is revealed: Not only does her jewelry make her stronger, but they can change the gender of their wearer. In Sang's case, when she takes off her rings, she becomes a muscular and powerful man! Holy gender-bender defender!

Despite a valiant effort by the denizens of the Demon School, the Madosa Guild seals the Mahgae. In the aftermath of all the fighting, the Demon School students bury their dead and search for a faraway land rumored to be inhabited by creatures like them. Sang, meanwhile, begins another adventure.

In a dark forest, Sang meets a girl swordmaster named Chun-Lang. A ring on Chun-Lang's finger piques Sang's curiosity. Lost, the two try to make their way out of the woods and come across Alcan, a villainous warlock from the Madosa Guild. Unknowingly, Chun-Lang disrupts one of Alcan's spells, resulting in the creation of a behemoth named Gigantes. Gigantes is convinced that Chun-Lang is his "mommy," since she was the first thing he laid eyes on...

Sang as a woman

Sang as a man

Chun-Lang & Sang

MANDRAKE... LEGS OF A CENTIPEDE... MUCUS OF A STONE TROLL... YES, YEEES!!
BOIL, BOIL, TOIL AND, WELL, ALL THAT JAZZ. YES, SOON... SOON YOU SHALL BE COMPLETE, MY LOVE!
Alcan

Gigantes

PHD
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Restart

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MRUUH!
MUUUMMY!
GET IT THROUGH THAT THICK SKULL OF YOURS! I'M NOT YOUR MOMMY!! NO, NOT "MOMMY"! DADDY! DADDY!!
THIS...THIS ISN'T AT ALL AS I'D PLANNED!
ARGH!
THAT COW'S STOLEN MY CREATION AWAY FROM ME!!
CRRIIP

Quest 34

I'VE SPENT *YEARS* TRYING TO RESURRECT *GIGANTES*, THE MONSTROUS REDLANDS DESTROYER OF LEGEND...

...AND YOU'VE *TAKEN* HIM FROM ME! *I'M* THE ONE IT SHOULD BE CALLING *MOMMY!*

I'M THE ONE WHO DUG UP HIS REMAINS! *I'M* THE ONE THAT PERFORMED THE RITUALS! *I AM!!*

HEY, IF YOU WANT 'EM SO BAD, YOU CAN HAVE 'EM!!

HUH?

sniff sniff

.....

YEEEK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

UH, G-GIGANTES, THIS *ISN'T* HOW WE PLAY WITH MOMMY.

UH, WHAT'RE YOU...?

POKE

ARGH! WHAT THE HECK?!

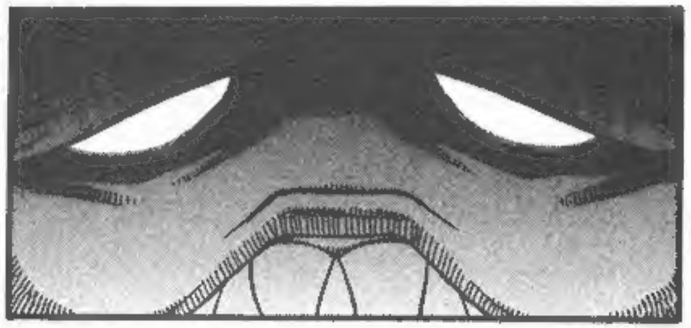
BABIES AREN'T S'POSED TA GROPE THEIR MOMMIES!!

EEEK!!

squiip squiip

OMFF!!

OUCH!
HEY, YOU! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!

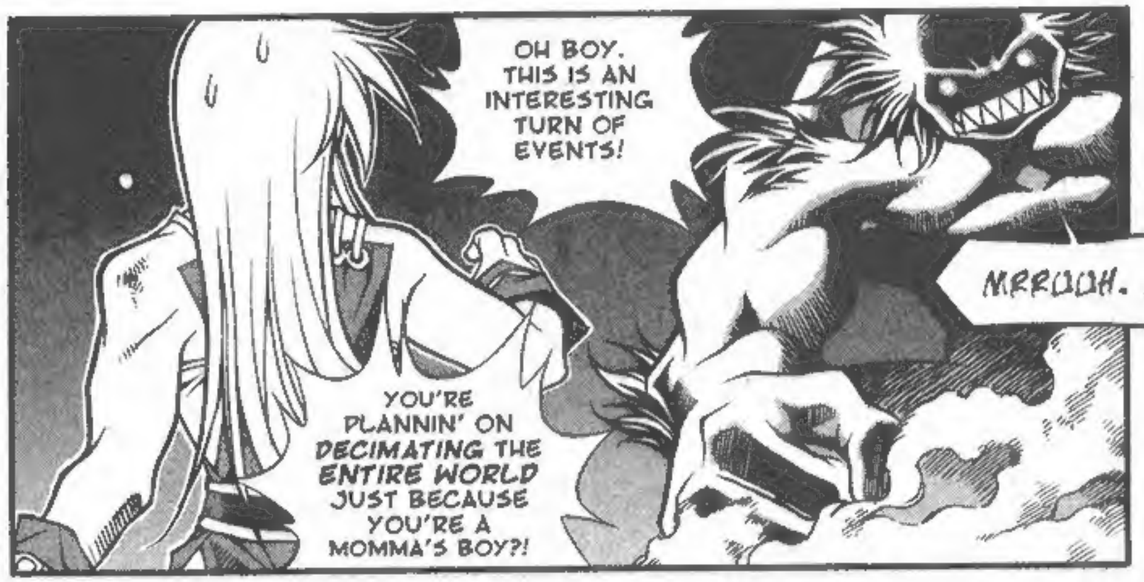


YOU... NOT... MOMMY.
EH?

HEY, WAY TA GO! YOU'RE FINALLY LEARNIN'!!
SO, WHAT WAS THE TIP-OFF? NO MILK?
YOU NOT... MOMMY.

YOU NOT...

EEEP!
...MUMMY!!


OH BOY. THIS IS AN INTERESTING TURN OF EVENTS!
MRROOH.
YOU'RE PLANNIN' ON DECIMATING THE ENTIRE WORLD JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A MOMMA'S BOY?!

GIVE BACK...
MOMMY!!
MRRAAH!

WHOA!!

W-WAIT A SEC, I WAS *ONLY JOKING* BEFORE!

I MIGHT BE ALL *MANLY* NOW, BUT IT'S *STILL* ME!!

I'M YOUR *MOMMY!* *PROMISE!!*

HOLD UP...

...WHAT AM I RUNNING FOR?

JUST 'CAUSE HE'S *HUGE* DOESN'T MEAN I HAFTA GO *SCAMPERIN'* OFF LIKE A CHICKEN.

THIS BETTER *NOT* BE A SIGN THAT MY PERSONALITY GOT *WARPED* FROM ALL THAT TIME AS A *GIRL*.

C'MON, YOU BIG BABY!!

NO, YOU IDIOT!

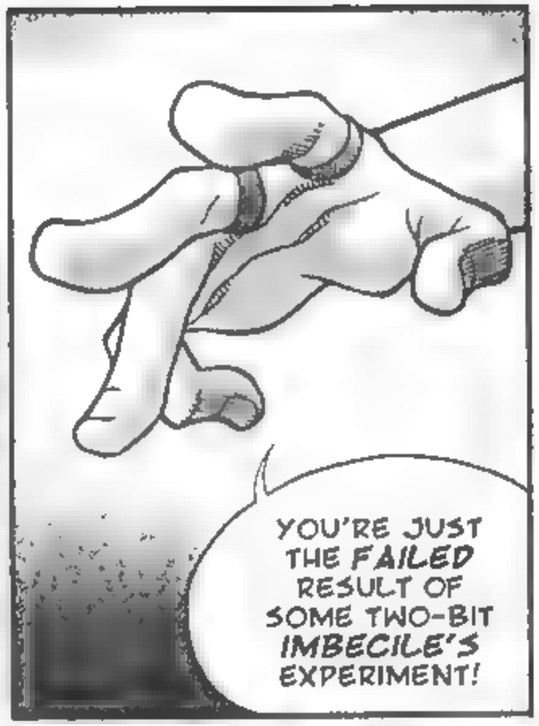
DON'T DRAW YOUR SWORD!!

GEE, OLD MAN, GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE CONCERNED, BUT I CAN *MORE* THAN HOLD MY OWN!

I COULD CARE *LESS* ABOUT YOU! GO AND BE *SQUASHED* FOR ALL I CARE!!

ATTACK

WHO THE...?!


YOU'RE JUST THE FAILED RESULT OF SOME TWO-BIT IMBECILE'S EXPERIMENT!

NRRMMLL

AND IF YOU SO MUCH AS DARE TO HARM THIS BODY OF MINE...
..THEN MERCY'S GOING RIGHT OFF THE AGENDA! 'CAUSE GUESS WHAT?!

FUNTIME'S OVER, YOU STUPID FLEABAG!!

SANG?!

She's... she's a **man** now. Does that mean that she has one of the **rings,** too?

Of course she does. Why else would she know so much about **my** ring?

YOU BLITHERING CHILD!!

HOW MUCH MORE OF A *MESS* ARE YOU *COMPELLED* TO CREATE *BEFORE* YOU'RE SATISFIED?!

I'D WATCH THAT TONGUE OF YOURS, ALCAN!

THIS MESS IS GETTING CLEANED UP...AND *YOU'RE* THE *MOP!*

kRISSSH

WELL.

THAT CAN'T BE GOOD.

BY THE GODS, HE'S...HE'S HUMONGOUS!!

UH-OH.

SEE WHAT YOU *BRATS* HAVE DONE?! YOUR MAGIC HAS *DOOMED* US ALL!!

N.RA HA HA HA!

Quest 35

THAT'S ONE BIG BABY!!

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?! THE LITTLE TYKE ONLY GREW A *TINY* BIT WHEN IT ABSORBED *MY* MAGIC!

JUST HOW POWERFUL IS LADY SANG?!

SEE WHAT YOU *GET* FOR NOT LISTENING TO ME?! THIS IS ON *YOUR* HEAD! *NOT* MINE!!

HEH

ALCAN, YOU *SURE* MADE ME ONE *FUN* PLAYMATE.

I SUPPOSE *EVEN* A GUY LIKE YOU *CAN* BE USEFUL FOR *SOMETHING*.

What's gotten into her?

I can't quite accept it, but it's her personality. It's different somehow. Less demure. More... erratic.

AH HA HA HA!

HA HA HA HA!

A BEAST THAT ABSORBS MAGIC... *GOOD ONE.*

BUT I'M **SURE** THE MADOSA GUILD DOESN'T NEED SOMETHING LIKE GIGANTES TO FEND OFF THEIR OPPONENTS...

...OR WERE YOU PLANNING A *COUP D'ETAT?*

ACK!

HEH...WELL...

BULL'S-EYE!

SO, *THAT'S* YOUR GAME. THAT'S WHY YOU *ALWAYS* HAD YOUR *EYE* ON MY RING

YOU *KNOW* AS WELL AS I DO THAT THE ORDER RANK ONLY *PROMOTES* ITS MEMBERS ACCORDING TO AB LITY. THEY DON'T CARE IN THE LEAST BIT ABOUT TRAINING AND NURTURING THEIR LOWER RANKS.

YOU WANTED TO SHOW 'EM WHO'S BOSS. YOU WERE GOING TO BLOCK THEIR MAGIC WITH YOUR *LITTLE* TOY AND *OBLITERATE* THEM

AND ONCE YOU HAD MY RING, YOU WERE GOING TO *INCREASE* YOUR POWERS SO YOU COULD *ACTUALLY* BE A *MATCH* FOR PRESIDENT HYUP. PATHETIC, REALLY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

LOVELY.

M.O.M...MY.

WHERE... MOMMY?!

THAT WAS. UNEXPECTED.

UNNGH!

WE...WE *DON'T* HAVE TIME TO CHAT!

EVEN WITH A SLIGHT BUILD, YOU'RE *ACTUALLY* ABLE TO HOLD THIS GUY UP. NOT BAD.

WE'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' ABOUT THIS GUY BEFORE HE--

M-M-MOVES!

HELP! GRAB ME!!

SORRY, PASS. BYE.

OWWIEE!!

YIIIPP!

THAT KID'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW.

I MIGHT'VE HAD A *GRAND* PLAN FOR GIGANTES, BUT THE TRUTH IS *NOBODY* CAN CONTROL HIM.

AND OUR MAGICS ARE *USELESS.* YOU AND I HAVE *NO WAY* OF DEFEATING IT.

SO?

IF WE JUST LEAVE G GANTES TO HAVE ITS *WAY* WITHOUT *ANY* PARENTAL SUPERVISION...

...THEN WE'LL SEE A REPEAT OF THE *SAME* DISASTROUS TRAGEDY THAT BEFELL THIS LAND *HUNDREDS* OF YEARS AGO!

AND YOUR POINT IS?

CURSE IT! I'M IN *NO* MOOD TO ARGUE WITH YOU!

WE *HAVE* TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO *DESTROY* HIM SOMEHOW!!

HEH HEH HEH!

DAH HA HA HA HA HA!

WHAT'S... WHAT'S SO *FUNNY?!*

ARE YOU *SENILE*, OLD MAN?

OR ARE YOU JUST *STUPID?!*

NOW THAT WE'VE GOT A GUY TO DO THE WORK FOR US...

...LET'S JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH AS THIS PLAY UNFOLDS!

WHAT?!

LADY SANG, YOU...YOU *CAN'T* BE SERIOUS!!

QUIT YOUR WHINING, OLD MAN!!

YOU SHOULDN'T *MEDDLE* WITH ANCIENT FORCES IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE GALL TO CONTROL THEM!!

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT WANTED TO SEE THE MADOSA GUILD *FALL* SO BADLY!

Why, that brat...

I thought she was **against** the mission of the Guild.

AAARGH!

EEEP!

OH, CHUN-LANG...

THANKS FOR KEEPING MY PLAYMATE ENTERTAINED.

BUT I THINK I'LL CUT IN NOW!!

UH-OH.

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING*?! STOP THIS MADNESS!!

DON'T DESTROY GIGANTES!!

IT'S SHOWTIME.

YOO HOO, BABY! GOT A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR YA!!

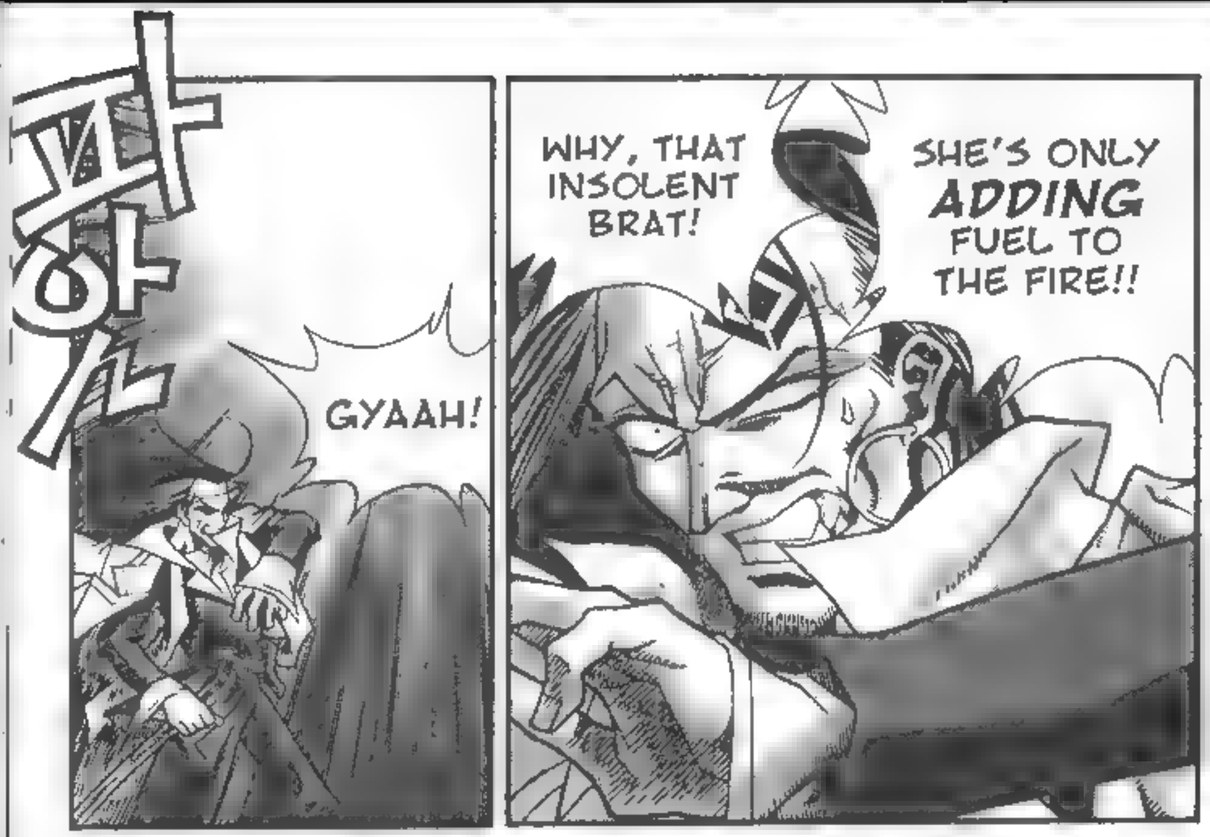
BLAZING COMET!!

SANG?!

MRUUHH!!

NOW BLOW OUT THE CANDLES!!

KYAAA HA HA HA!

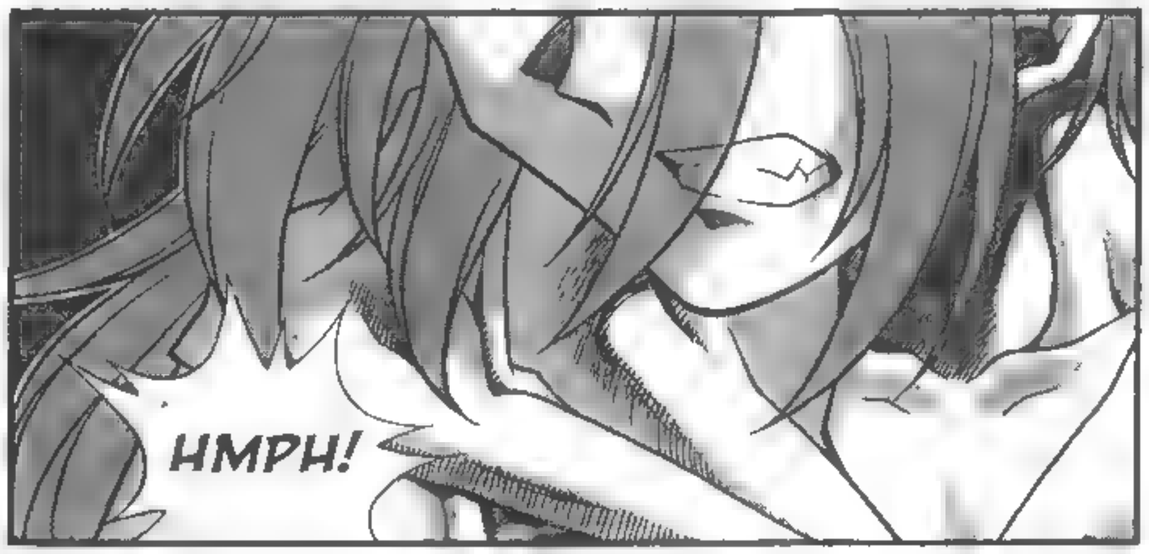

GYAAH!

WHY, THAT INSOLENT BRAT!
SHE'S ONLY ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE!!

HUH?!!

MRRAAAGGGH!

THIS CANNOT BE!!
GIGANTES IS SUPPOSED TO ABSORB ALL MAGICAL POWER! HOW IN HADES DID SANG'S BLAST HAVE ANY EFFECT?!


HMPH!

BUT THAT MEANS IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A CHEAP DOLL!
IT ACTUALLY WORKED. GO FIGURE.
ALCAN'S QUALITY CONTROL MUST BE SLIPPING IN HIS OLD AGE.
PHEW!!

huff
huff
THAT SANG... SHE'S A MANIAC!
HMM?
TOTAL
MOMMY...
MOMMY?!
NOW THAT WAS UNEXPECTED. CAN'T BLAME 'IM, THOUGH. HE'S REALLY JUST A NEWBORN.
HE'S JUST BEING VIOLENT 'CAUSE HE KNOWS NO BETTER.
WHERE... MOMMY?! IT HURT.
.....

SNIFF SNIFF

MOMMY?!!

EHEH. UH, THERE THERE. DOES BABY GOT A HURT HURT?

Okay, so I'm not one for this whole mothering thing, but I guess I'll just have to wing it for now.

MOMMY!

OH, MOMMY!!

THERE THERE, MOMMY'S HERE.

.....

OUCH! CRUSHING PAIN... CAN'T .. BREATHE!

CRUNCH

WHY IN HADES IS...

...CHUN-LANG *BABYING* THAT THING?

WHAT? DOES HIS RING HAVE THE POWER TO FEMINIZE THE WEARER'S PERSONALITY OR SOMETHING?

YEAH, THAT WOULD MAKE A LOT OF SENSE.

MMBL MMBL

DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THAT GUY MAKES FOR A PRETTY COOL GIRL AS IT IS.

HER LOOKS ARE TOP-NOTCH AND IF HER PERSONALITY'S ALL WOMAN, THEN..

...THAT'S NOT BAD AT ALL! *HEH HEH HEH!!*

SANG, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO *NOW?!*

HEE HEE!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU *THINK'S* GOING ON?!!

EEEP! WHA- WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'?!

YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK YOU'RE JUST ABOUT MY TYPE!!

HUH?

HEH.
GUESS THIS MAKES YOU MY GIRL NOW.
SWAP!
YOUR WHAT?!
HAVE YOU GONE INSANE?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I—I JUST KISSED A GUY!
OMG OMG OMG
THAT WAS SUCH A... SUCH A--

HEH HEH HEH

AWW, WAS THAT YOUR *FIRST KISS?*

TEH

ZZZ

GACK!

NO MATTER WHAT *ANYBODY* SAYS, YOU'RE A *GIRL* NOW! AND YOU'RE *JUST* MY TYPE!!

I SWEAR TO YOU, GENDER MEANS *NOTHING!* BE *MY* GIRL AND I *SHALL* GIVE YOU *THE WORLD!!*

MY FIRST KISS...

...W-W-WASTED.

In total shock.

HMM, SO THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED.

MY HYPOTHESIS WAS THAT HIS *STRENGTH* WOULD *CONTINUE* TO GROW, BUT IT SEEMS THAT WAS ONLY *TEMPORARY*.

HE'S *USELESS* NOW. BLAST IT! THIS SHALL REQUIRE A BODY THAT'S ABLE TO SUSTAIN ITS FORM FOR A PROLONGED ATTACK.

ONCE GIGANTES' BODY WAS OVERLY SATURATED WITH ENERGY, IT WASN'T *STRONG* ENOUGH TO ABSORB THE INFLUX. ITS CELLS JUST SHUT DOWN.

THAT'S IT!

A *STRONGER* BEING...!

Quest 37

IT'S NOT GUARANTEED TO WORK...
...BUT IT'S MORE THAN WORTH A TRY.

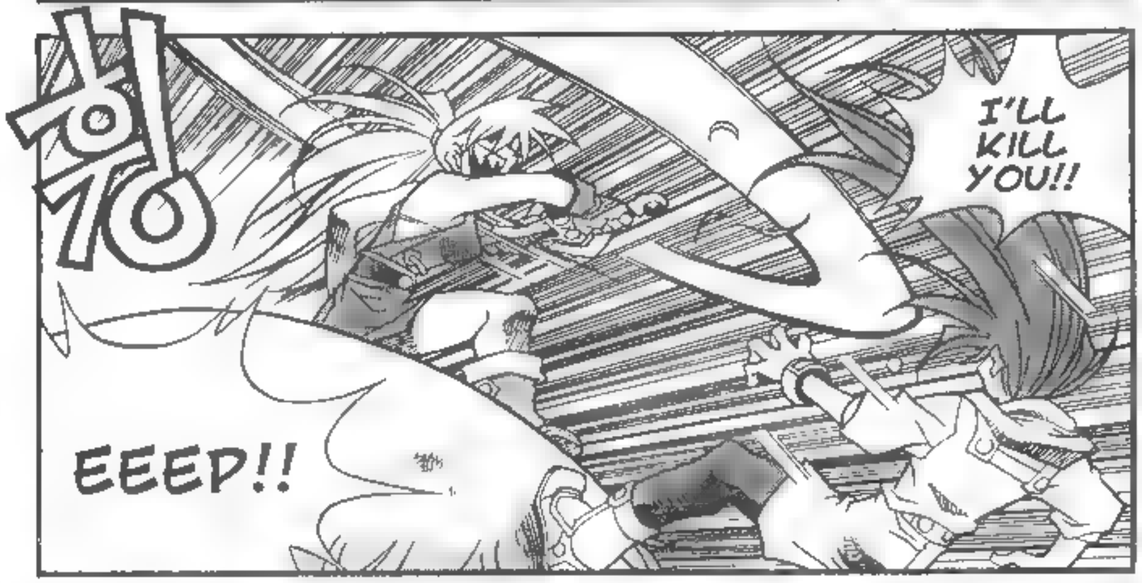
HEY, CHUN-LANG, YOU OKAY? YOU'RE ALL RED.
F-FIRST.. K-K-KISS.
MUMMY?

JESUS!

ARE YOU NUTS?!
YOU COULDA KILLED ME!!
HAAH HAAH

KILL YOU?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT..
...KILLING YOU ISN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA EITHER!
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES THAT KNOW ABOUT THIS DISGRACEFUL MOMENT! IF I KILL YOU, THEN NOBODY'LL EVER KNOW! YES, IT'LL BE LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED.
GEEH HEH.

HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ENOUGH FIBER?


I'LL KILL YOU!!
EEEP!!

C'MON, IT'S JUST A LOVERS' SPAT!

WE CAN WORK THIS OUT!

I COULDN'T CARE LESS.

ZIII

ONCE YOU'RE DEAD, YOU CAN TALK ALL YOU WANT...FROM THE *UNDERWORLD!*

YOU KNOW, ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT HOW YOU WERE TO GOING TO ***AVENGE*** YOUR PARENTS' DEATHS?!

ARE YOU GOING TO ***FORGET*** ABOUT THE MADOSA GUILD AND CONTINUE ACTING ALL ***INSANE?!***

UH-OH! SHE MUST'VE BEEN IN A REALLY **BAD** RELATIONSHIP, IF SHE'S **THIS** TRAUMATIZED!!

주춤주춤

오싹

GULP!

LOOK!!

?

HUNH?

WAIT, WE CAN WORK THIS OUT! I CAN GET YOU COUNSELING!!

JUST CALM DOWN AND TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE!

Graah...

덜컹 덜컹

THUMP THUMP

HE'S RIGHT THERE! GO TAKE YOUR ***DIVINE*** JUSTICE OUT ON HIM!!

WAIT, WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

ALCAN, YOU SLIMY WEASEL, WHERE'D YOU SLITHER OFF TO?!

Here? No. There?

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE *CARVED* ON YOUR TOMBSTONE?

YIIIP!!

AARRGH!

WHAT ARE THOSE *PESKY* INSECTS UP TO NOW?

OH WELL, AS LONG AS IT KEEPS THEM *ENTERTAINED* AND *OUT* OF MY HAIR, I'LL BE THANKFUL.

NOW, MY PRETTY, ARE YOU READY FOR A LITTLE COSMETIC SURGERY?

I WAS THINKING I'D USE UP THE *REMAINING* CELLS FROM THE *ORIGINAL* GIGANTES

UNFORTUNATELY, TIME IS GROWING SHORT, AND THIS IS A RATHER *RISKY* INVESTMENT TO MAKE.

COUNTLESS YEARS OF RESEARCH ALL COMING DOWN TO THIS ONE *FINAL* EXPERIMENT.

OH WELL, NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT TO WAGER IT ALL ON THE CHANCE...

...THAT IT'LL BRING RISE TO THE *RESURRECTION* OF THE *ULTIMATE* WEAPON!

OOF!

퍼억!!

NO... FAIR--

HOW ANNOYING.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO ROUGH WITH HER.

BUT WHAT CHOICE DID I HAVE? SHE LOST HER BLOODY HEAD!

NOW, GIGANTES, YOU STAY HERE AND WATCH OVER *MUMMY*, 'KAY?

MUH?

IF SHE'S HIS MOM, THEN DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE TO BE HIS DADDY? OH MAN.

극적

FINE, *WHATEVER*. WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

?

PAP

THAT'S ONE CRISIS AVERTED...

UFO

...NOW, WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THAT *SNEAKY* ALCAN?

I KNOW HE'S AROUND HERE *SOMEWHERE*... HIS MAGIC IS STILL STRONG

HE'S REALLY STARTING TO CHAFE MY HIDE.

KO

ALCAN, YOU *BASTARD!!*

GET OUT HERE AND SHOW YOURSELF *NOW!!*

QUIT STALLIN'!

I *KNOW* YOU CAN HEAR ME!!

huff huff

헉-헉-

SOOO... JUST GONNA IGNORE ME, HUH?

DON'T THINK I'M SERIOUS, IS THAT IT?

OH, I'LL SHOW YOU SERIOUS.

I'M GONNA *BURN* YOU OUT!!

KRAAAAHHH!!

?!!

피융

HWEE-YOUNG?

YOU'RE NOT DEAD?!

피융

지익

N.OOH...
OOH--
CHWARRR
THAT UNDEAD BASTARD!!

UNN.

AAHH.

UNNH.

BLAST IT!

BLAST IT ALL!

I GAVE YOU ULTIMATE POWER, HWEE-YOUNG, AND *THIS* IS HOW YOU THINK TO *REPAY* ME?!

YOU UNGRATEFUL CUR.

MY CALCULATIONS WERE FLAWLESS! IT *SHOULD'VE* WORKED!!

SO, *WHY* DON'T I HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER HIM?!

.....

I CAN'T *LEAVE* HIM LIKE THIS, THOUGH. THE GUILD MIGHT DISCOVER MY PLANS.

ALTHOUGH, THERE'S LITTLE I CAN DO AT THIS POINT. HE'S *MUCH* TOO POWERFUL.

IF ONLY THERE WERE ANOTHER WAY--

WH- WHO'S THERE?!

I'M BUT AN OLD MAN TRYING TO MAKE HIS WAY TO--!

YOU!!

.....

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

AARGH!!

HUH?!

JUST NOW...

DID YOU HEAR THAT NOISE AS WELL, HEXION?

I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR. A NOISE?

YES, STEMMING FROM THIS DIRECTION.

AH, YES. I *DID* MAKE IT OUT, SIR.

IT SEEMED TO BE THE AUDIBLE SCREAM OF AN ELDERLY MAN

AND BEFORE THAT, THE DYING BREATH OF A LARGE BEAST AND THE LABORED BREATHING OF A FEMALE

THERE ARE ALSO HINTS OF A SORCERER AND A WARRIOR DUELING AGAINST ONE ANOTHER

I HOPE YOU REALIZE SOON THAT THERE *IS* AN EXTENT TO HOW CAREFREE ONE CAN BE.

WHAT *EVER* DO YOU MEAN, SIR?

채글?

WE SHALL TALK OF THIS LATER.

I SENSE ***MUCH*** UNEASINESS TOWARDS OUR KIND EMANATING FROM THESE WOODS.

INDEED, MY DEAR HEXION, YOUR ELVEN EARS ARE ***VERY*** BECOMING OF YOU AND FAR SUPERIOR TO EVEN MY OWN...

...BUT WHY DID YOU NOT IDENTIFY THE SOUNDS UNTIL PROMPTED?

AH HA HA.

WHY, BECAUSE WE ARE HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION AS IT IS

COME NOW, HEXION!

WITH PLEASURE, SIR!

FOLLOW MY LEAD!!

BY THE GODS!

PROFESSOR SHUMIRO, SIR?!

YES, I KNOW. I WITNESSED IT AS WELL!

I SHALL INVESTIGATE THE AREA THE SCREAMING ORIGINATED FROM.

HEXION, YOU SCOUT OUT THE ORIGIN OF THAT EXPLOSION.

INVESTIGATE AND ***STAND BY*** FOR FUTURE ORDERS! LET'S NOT HAVE A REPEAT OF ***LAST*** TIME!

WE SHALL SEE! NO GUARANTEES, SIR!

HEH HEH!

I'M NOT SURE WHO THAT WAS, BUT HE DISAPPEARED IN THE *TWINKLE* OF AN EYE.

Surprising such speed that one.

OH DEAR, THE ELDERLY MAN'S TIME HAS PASSED.

EVA HA HAHA!

BY ELROND'S GRAVE, HE'S ALIVE?!

I WAS CERTAIN HE HAD PERISHED!
HIS LIFE FORCE WAS SURELY DISSIPATED, BUT THIS MAGICAL FORCE.

...COULD THIS BE THE FABLED LICH?!
YES, THIS IS THE SHELL OF A VERY POWERFUL SORCERER.
I HAD HEARD TALES OF THE SORCERERS OF GOREBEL ATTAINING THE LEVEL OF LICH AFTER THEY PASSED ON, BUT TO SEE IT WITH MINE OWN EYES... IT'S QUITE MARVELOUS.

Unfortunately, this power is definitely not one summoned to help preserve life, but rather to aid in another's destruction.
But what in Hades would he need to pit this unholy power against?

THUD

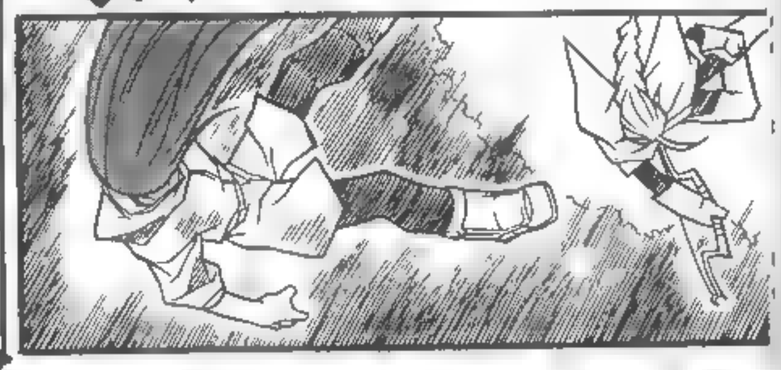
THUD
THERE IT GOES AGAIN.
COULD THAT BE PROFESSOR SHUMIRO'S DOING?

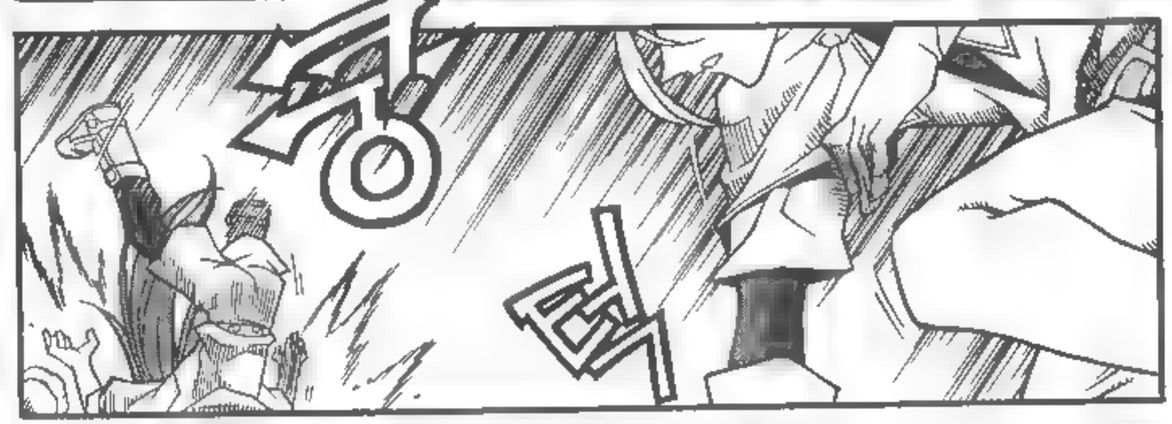
OH DEAR!!

THUD

ARGH!!
WHAT'S YOUR GAME, LONG EARS?!

WHOOPS!
MY STRAY THOUGHTS MUST'VE CLOUDED MY JUDGMENT!

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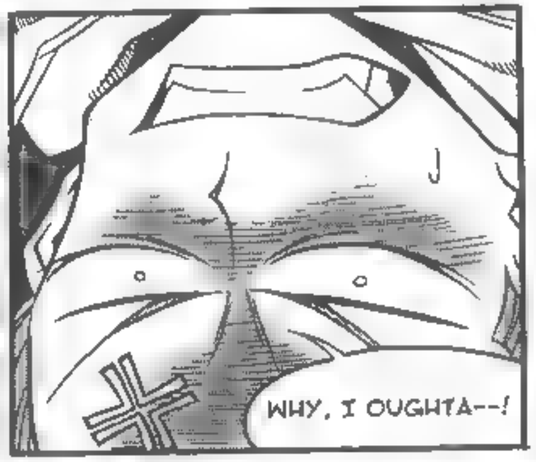
I'M DREADFULLY SORRY!
THIS WAS NOT AT ALL DELIBERATE!


WHY, I OUGHTA--!

Quest 39

YOU LONG-EARED *JERK!* WATCH WHERE YOU'RE FLYIN' NEXT TIME!!

AND HOW'D I END UP ON MY RUMP...

...WHEN YOU WENT DOWN ALL GRACEFUL LIKE? WAS THAT YOUR *INTENTION?!*

NO NO... THAT'S NOT...I WAS JUST--

HEH!

ARGH!

I DO APOLOGIZE FOR BUMPING INTO YOU, BUT I BELIEVE YOUR INABILITY TO LAND SAFELY REVEALS A PROBLEM WITH YOUR BALANCE.

THUS, I AM *NOT* TO BLAME FOR THAT.

MY... *BALANCE?!*

!!!

ARE YOU INSULTING MY *MASCULINITY* NOW?!

COME NOW, SIR. LET'S LET BYGONES BE--

GRRR!

Shake on it?

GO ON... DIG YOURSELF *DEEPER.*

OHO

YOUR GOOSE IS ALREADY COOKED!!

SIGH.

PO
EX
HEE-YAAAH!!
ICE

BLAST!
HWEE-YOUNG, YOU MENACE! THIS IS MY FIGHT!!
I KNOW NOT WHAT FOUL ENTITY HAS INFESTED HER, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HER IN THIS CARNAL STATE.
SHE'S LIABLE TO START ATTACKING EVERYTHING IF NOT STOPPED.
EVERYTHING? HA! DON'T KID YOURSELF! THE OTHER GUY'S SLIM PICKINGS COMPARED TO YOU!!
YOUR "SON"?
THAT HULKING MONSTER I KILLED EARLIER? SURELY YOU JEST.
YOU SLAUGHTERED MY BELOVED SON--YOU THINK I'M GONNA LET THAT SLIDE?!
大!

A *MONSTER* THAT HOSTS A FOUNTAINHEAD OF *EVIL* ENERGY IS A WICKED BEING! DESTROYING SUCH AN UNHOLY CREATURE IS A *WARRIOR'S* RIGHT!!

AND CAN YOU HELP IT...

...THAT *YOU* WERE BORN A HUMAN?

HEY, I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT...

...BUT I JUST WANTED TO *ASSURE* YOU THAT I WILL NOT BE REQUIRING YOUR ASSISTANCE ANY FURTHER.

AH, SO YOU ARE OF AN ELVEN TRIBE?

ELVEN TRIBE?

HA HA! THAT MUST MAKE YOU A *HUMAN,* THEN.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

OH, JUST THAT YOU SEEMED LIKE THE TYPE OF INDIVIDUAL TO *SEPARATE* OTHERS...

...BY RACE.

WHAT THE --?!
DON'T... MOVE!!

HAAH?!
NOW, WHAT WAS THAT DISDAIN I CAUGHT A WHIFF OF EARLIER?
MAN-GIRL, WHAT'S YOUR GAME?! YOU'VE NO REASON TO ATTACK US!
"REASON"?
I ACTUALLY NEED ONE OF THOSE?

HOW'S ABOUT THIS? I JUST *DON'T LIKE* YOU!! IS *THAT* REASON ENOUGH FOR YOU?!

I'M WARNING YOU...

CONTINUE TO TARGET ME, AND I *WILL* TAKE YOU DOWN!

FINE! IT'S SETTLED, THEN!!

FROM NOW ON, YOU ARE MY *"TARGET"*!!

IF YOU WANT TO GO AT IT, THEN I'M *NOT* ONE TO DECLINE!

HEY, UH, THERE'S NO REASON TO FIGHT. WHY NOT JUST *SHAKE* AND BE FRIENDS?

UGH, AM I REALLY EXPECTED TO HALT THEM?

THIS IS SUCH A BOTHER.

AH, BUT I WAS ONLY INSTRUCTED TO PERFORM RECONNAISSANCE. I DON'T HAVE TO GET INVOLVED.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH!

I SHALL BE KEEPING TABS ON YOUR DUEL.

KYAAAH!

YOU...!

YOU'RE NOT OFF THE HOOK YET, LONG EARS!!

HUH?

Aiyiyi! Of all times to be attacked, why's it have to be in mid-leap?!

COWARDLY MONGREL!!

HMPH!

UNNECESSARY COOPERATION... I EXPECTED AS MUCH.

BY THE GODS... SUCH POWER!

HEY, YOU THERE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

UNNH.

IN THIS SITUATION, YOUR HELP IS MUCH APPRECIATED, BUT--

WHA...?

!!

MY CLOTHES ARE SINGED, BUT I AM UNHARMED.

AND MY ENERGY...IT FEELS AS IF IT'S *RISING*.

Quest 40

HEH

LOOK HERE, LI'L LADY. DON'T YOU GO DOIN' NOTHIN' DANGEROUS, NOW.

퍽

NOW, I DON'T KNOW THE FULL STORY, SO I'M JUST CALLIN' IT LIKE I SEE IT.
.....
퍽

HENH?
STABBIN' AN OPPONENT THAT'S JUST LY'N' THERE UNCONSCIOUS IS KINDA UNFAIR, WOULDN'T YA SAY?

HUH? ME, TOO? SURE, GIMME JUST A SEC.
느으-

DARGH! YOU WERE ACTUALLY *SERIOUS?!*

WHA-- WHOA!!

WOW WEE! UP CLOSE, SHE'S A *BEAUTY!*

AH, AND YOUR BEAUTY IS *EQUALLY* AS STUNNING.

YOU MIGHT HIDE BEHIND A MASK, BUT THOSE *DELECTABLE* CURVES ARE *VERY* REVEALING.

.....

WHY THE HALTED ACTION?

WAS IT SOMETHING I SAID?

GO FIGURE.

CUTIES COME AND CUTIES GO.

LEAST SLEEPIN' BEAUTY'S STILL KEEPIN' ME COMPANY

NOW THE QUESTION IS SHOULD I WAKE HER OR NOT?

SHIK

AAAA

CHAPTER 21

WHAT A RACKET.

THAT EXPLOSION MEANS HIS TEMPER'S NOT THE ONLY THING THAT'S GONE SOUR.

I'd say we're up against a highly formidable sorcerer.

huff

huff

wheeze

IM- IMPOSSIBLE!!

WHY ARE YOU STILL *STANDING?!*

THERE'S LITTLE POINT IN ASKING ME

I KNOW NOT THE REASON *EITHER.*

THE ONLY CONSTANT THAT I'M SURE OF IS THAT ..

ドクン

...YOUR MAGIC HAS *NO* EFFECT ON ME!

HAAH?!

THAT UNHOLY *BASTARD!*

HIS STRENGTH KEEPS ON GROWING, WHILE MINE...

...I barely have enough to keep awake.

huff huff

No, there's something left.

huff

Though, there's no telling if it'll even work on him or not.

TELL ME, WHERE DID ALL YOUR *VIGOR* GO?

헉헉헉

IS THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES... *FEAR?* IS YOUR *TAIL* BETWEEN YOUR LEGS AS WELL?!

HUFF HUFF

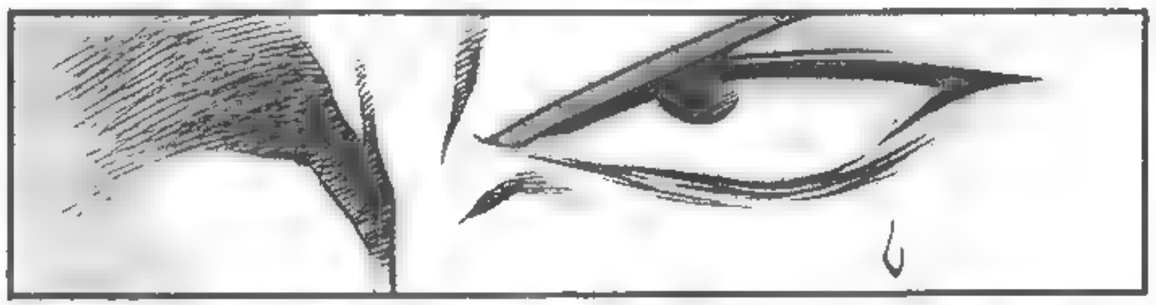
.....

But I could always take off...

...the ring?

If I do, I'll surely have a fighting chance! This is beyond my current abilities. I have to recharge myself!

But then... I won't be me anymore.



EVEN SO

...I REALLY...

...REALLY...

...HATE TO LOSE!!

HUH?!

I SEE CHARGING UP FOR ONE FINAL ATTACK, ARE YOU?

PHEW!

I'M GETTING DRAINED JUST WATCHING THEM.

IT SEEMS I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE.

BUT I HOPE THE POOR HUMAN WILL FINALLY FIND HIS PEACE.

Quest 41

.....

WHAT IS? ALL THIS *TALK?!* YOU *STARTED* THIS FIGHT!

AND *NOW* YOU'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE. ARE YOU *TRYING* TO ESCAPE BY PLEADING *INSANITY?!*

I HAVE MY REASONS.

I SUPPOSE I'M UNABLE TO *CONTROL* THIS BATTLE'S ALPHA AND OMEGA

SO I'LL ASK YOU A QUESTION WHAT IS YOUR *PURPOSE?*

M-MY PURPOSE?

WHAT IS THIS *NONSENSE* YOU'RE SPOUTING?

THAT CONTEMPTIBLE ANIMOSITY IS GONE, BUT SO IS HIS POWER. IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO BEFORE.

IT'S MEANINGLESS.

I'M NOT ONE TO DWELL ON *INSIGNIFICANT* DETAILS LIKE VICTORY OR DEFEAT. I PROPOSE WE JUST FORGET THIS *MEANINGLESS* BATTLE.

YOU'VE HEARD MY INTENTION. ARE YOU PRONE TO AGREE WITH ME?

WHAT A PITY.

SMIRK

I AM THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT *DOES* DWELL ON VICTORY OR DEFEAT!

AND UNLIKE YOU ..

...A *TRUE* WARRIOR IS NOT *EASILY* TEMPTED TO *SHEATH* HIS SWORD ONCE IT'S DRAWN!

IS THAT...

YOU DISREGARDED MY WARNINGS, AND I WILL *NOT* TOLERATE THOSE WHO DO *NOT* TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR *THEIR* ACTIONS!

YOUR *INTENTION?*

IT IS A *WARRIOR'S* PRIDE!

SO BE IT.

I REALIZE THAT YOU CAN'T CHANGE SOMEONE'S MIND THROUGH SHEER FORCE.

IT SIMPLY HAS NO *PERSUASIVE* POWER.

BUT I *WILL* MAKE YOU SURRENDER.

ビト ビト ビト

DO WHAT YOU MUST!!

!!

ズズズ

ドカ

AN EARTH-QUAKE?!

ドドドドド

MAGIC MIGHT NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT ON YOU...

BUT THE *LAND* AROUND US IS *MORE* THAN WILLING TO HEED MY CALL

ゴゴゴゴ

GAAH!!

ping

I NEED ONLY THINK AND I HAVE A *NEW* ARSENAL.

두둥실

…!!

YOU CALL *THIS* AN ATTACK?! *HA!!*

THESE ARE LITTLE MORE THAN *TAVERN* TRICKS!!

!!

DUNHH!!

SWORD BEATS WOOD. ROCK BEATS SWORD.

KUH… CURSES!

IS THIS *ALL* IT TAKES TO MAKE YOU *MOAN* AND *GROAN?*

BECAUSE *THAT* WAS ONLY *JUST* THE BEGINNING.

HOPE YOU CAUGHT YOUR BREATH, BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE YOUR *TRUE* ABILITIES.

KLOOO!

TSK TSK.

EVEN AT THIS DISTANCE, THE *SLIGHTEST* PROVOCATION COULD PUT ME ON MY DEATHBED

HOW LONG WERE YOU PLANNING TO JUST SIT THERE AND OBSERVE?

OH, SIR! YOU'VE RETURNED!

YOU SEEM A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR. DID SOMETHING TRANSPIRE WHILE ON YOUR MISSION?

YOU COULD SAY THERE WAS A *SITUATION.*

HOW GOES THIS FRONT?

IT IS AS YOU SEE...

And drawing out of tuff up

TWO GENTLEMEN QUARRELING FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON.

ONE DOES NOT QUARREL WITHOUT REASON, MY PUPIL. WE SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO ARBITRATE.

I'M NOT SURE. IT'S HARD TO SEE WHOSE FAULT IT IS.

BESIDES, IT'S NOT REALLY MY STYLE TO INTERFERE

YOU *DISAPPOINT* ME, HEXION. WHERE IS YOUR CONCEPT OF *DIVINE PROVIDENCE?*

EH HEH HEH! I'M TRYING, SIR. I'M TRYING!

TRY PAST THE DISCOMFORT, *YOU MUST.*

NO MATTER THE CAUSE, *NO ONE* HAS THE RIGHT TO TAKE THE LIFE OF ANOTHER.

IF THE INTENT OF THIS DUEL IS TO *TAKE* ANOTHER'S LIFE, THEN WE *CANNOT* TURN A BLIND EYE.

OUR INTERFERENCE IS MORE THAN JUSTIFIED BY THE POWERS ABOVE.

THERE IS *NO* DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMITTING MURDER AND SIMPLY WATCHING ONE.

IF NEED BE, WE *SHALL* INTERVENE! READY YOURSELF, HEXION!

A-ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

Ugh, what a pain.

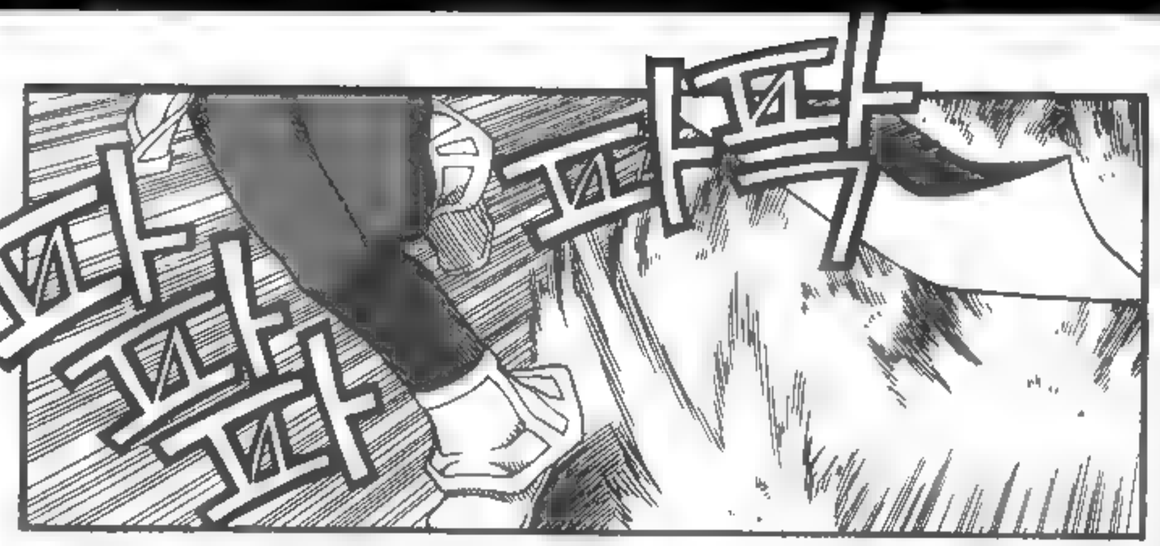
HMPH!

IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY THIS, THEN I'LL *GLADLY* BECOME YOUR EQUAL!!

Quest 42

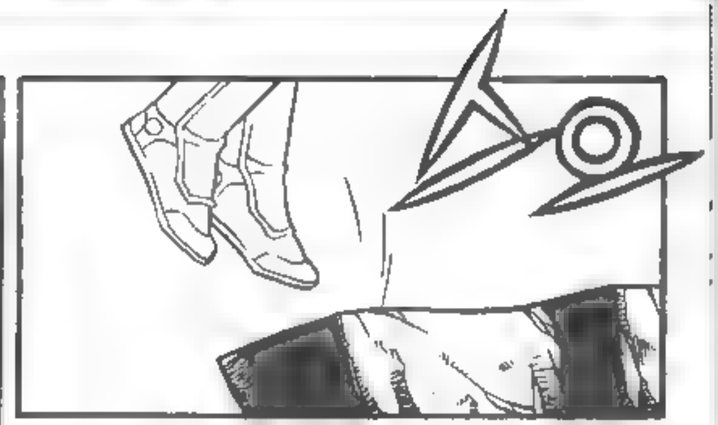
SHINING WARRIOR!
GILGAMESH BLADE!!

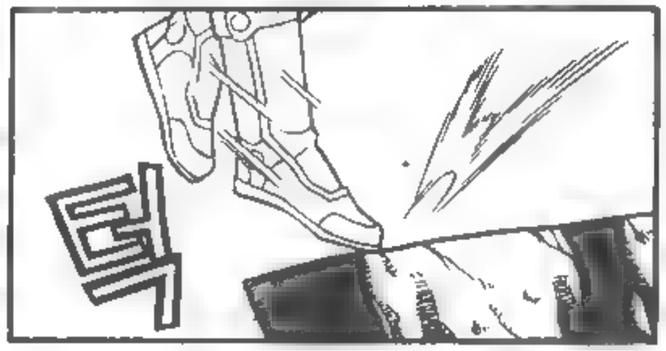
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE FACED A SITUATION SIMILAR TO THIS BEFORE...
ONLY THIS TIME, I DON'T HAVE THE SAME WILL TO LET YOU LIVE.



I SHALL CUT YOU DOWN WITH BUT ONE MIGHTY STRIKE!!

SO RASH...





파지

PA-PATHETIC PILES OF RUBBLE.

YOU *CANNOT* HALT ME!!

WHA?!

SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU...

...BUT IT'S JUST YOUR *BODY* THAT MY MAGIC HAS NO EFFECT ON.

IT WOULD SEEM YOUR SWORD *DIDN'T* GET THE SAME UPGRADE.

WHO...

WHO IN *HADES* ARE YOU?

WHAT...?!

AAAGGHH!

WHAT'S THE *MEANING* OF THIS INTRUSION?!

BLAST! I... I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEFEND MYSELF--!

휙

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휙

REGARDLESS OF YOUR *REASON* OR *INTENT*...

...I SHALL *NOT* TOLERATE THIS BLOODSHED!

WHILE I AM SURE YOU ARE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ELDERLY MAN'S MURDER...

.I SHALL NOT ORDER YOU TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT. NOR DO I HAVE ANY SUCH RIGHT.

BUT I AM *NOT* COLD-HEARTED AND THUS I SHALL *NOT* IGNORE WHAT I SEE BEFORE MY EYES.

MAKE THAT MOVE AND I PROMISE YOU...

...MY NEXT ARROW *SHALL* HIT SOMETHING VITAL.

...

BAH! WHO DOES THAT *WOMAN* THINK SHE IS?!

IF YOU PLAN ON DRIVING THAT *ARROW* INTO ME, THEN DO T FROM THE *FRONT*.

GO AHEAD AND RISK YOUR LIVES BY CONTINUING TO QUARREL.

PERSONALLY, THOUGH, I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE HEED OF PROFESSOR SHUMIRO'S ADVICE

I'LL EVEN RECITE ONE OF HIS FAVORITE SAYINGS FOR YOU.

"IF ONE THINKS THEY CAN DISAPPEAR LIKE MAGIC, THEN I *DARE* THEM TO TRY"!

GO AHEAD AND MOVE. MY ARM IS GETTING KIND OF TIRED.

Pesky elf!

PROFESSOR SHUMIRO! HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO STAND HERE FOR?!

...

BEAT IT!

HUH?

I COULD STRING YOU UP LIKE A HOG, BUT YOU'RE NOT *WORTH* THE TIME.

TELL YOU WHAT, VOW TO GIVE UP YOUR *MURDEROUS* INTENT IN THIS FOREST AND I SHALL LET YOU DISAPPEAR.

.....

SCOWL

Quest 43

!!

NEXT

SO, YOU WANT TO *GAMBLE*, IS THAT IT?!

SIR, DOES THAT MEAN I CAN MOVE NOW?!

KID, YOU BETTER FIND OUT QUICK!!

GAH !!

STAY ALERT!
IT'S A SMOKE SCREEN!
Wait a minute...
If she used a smoke screen, then....!

HEXION, KEEP YOUR WARRIOR IN SIGHT!!

HEH?

HE, UH...WENT THAT WAY.

....

DID HE ESCAPE? OR DID YOU LET HIM ESCAPE?

SIGH.

UH, IT'S *POSSIBLY* CLOSER TO THE LATTER, SIR. EHEH.

AND IT *NEVER* CROSSED YOUR MIND TO GO AFTER HIM?

EH, WHY BOTHER? IT'S TOO *LATE* ANYWAY.

ANOTHER *FAILING* MARK FOR COWARDLINESS. DO NOT MAKE THIS A HABIT, HEXION.

That girl...was it her goal to allow the other warrior a chance to flee?

All of them... gone!

.....

끄적...

SCRITCH SCRITCH

Okay, so I might've had an opening for nailhim...

...but he was the one trying to protect me. I just couldn't.

uh, better not let the Professor hear that

HEXION, WHERE DID THE *SORCERER* GO?

HUH? ISN'T THAT HIM SPRAWLED OUT ON THE GROUND?

YES, THERE *WAS* A ROBUST MAN HERE. THE QUESTION IS...

WHO THE *HADES* IS THIS GIRL?

AHHHHH

I'm sure her attack was meant as a diversion.

But why help me escape?

WOMAN, WHAT'S YOUR *GAME* WITH ME?!

WHAT'S THE *MEANING* OF THIS CHASE?!

.....

퍽

타앗

GREAT WARRIOR, I GIVE YOU MY THANKS.

BUT TELL ME, WHY DID YOU INTERVENE?

TUC

MY WORD! YOU?!

Chun-lang?!

NO, THEY SURELY LOOK ALIKE, BUT I'M GETTING A DIFFERENT VIBE FROM HER.

COULD IT BE HER TWIN? ARE THEY TEAMMATES?

.....

THERE ISN'T TIME TO EXPLAIN. PLEASE, JUST HEAR MY REQUEST.

"DEAR HONORABLE SOLIDER, HAVING BEEN FREED FROM THE DISQUIETING MOVEMENTS OF ALCAN, THE BANISHED ..

..."BLUE SKY" AND PRESIDENT HYUP OF THE MADOSA GUILD WOULD LIKE TO CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN IN THE PURSUIT OF OUR GREAT CAUSE."

THE MADOSA GUILD?!

BLUE... SKY?!

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME *HE'S* STILL ALIVE?!

I HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OUTSIDE OF MY PRIMARY MISSION OBJECTIVE

IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, YOU MAY HAVE THEM ANSWERED BY PRESIDENT HYUP HIMSELF.

HOW WOULD YOU CARE TO PROCEED?

I HAVE NO PLANS TO FORCE YOU, BUT PRESIDENT HYUP WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO SEE YOU HIMSEL--

FINE! LEAD THE WAY.

HOWEVER, I'LL MAKE MY DECISION *AFTER* I MEET HIM!

AS YOU WISH.

A LIFE HAS BEEN LOST. THE FOREST IS ALREADY DEAD.

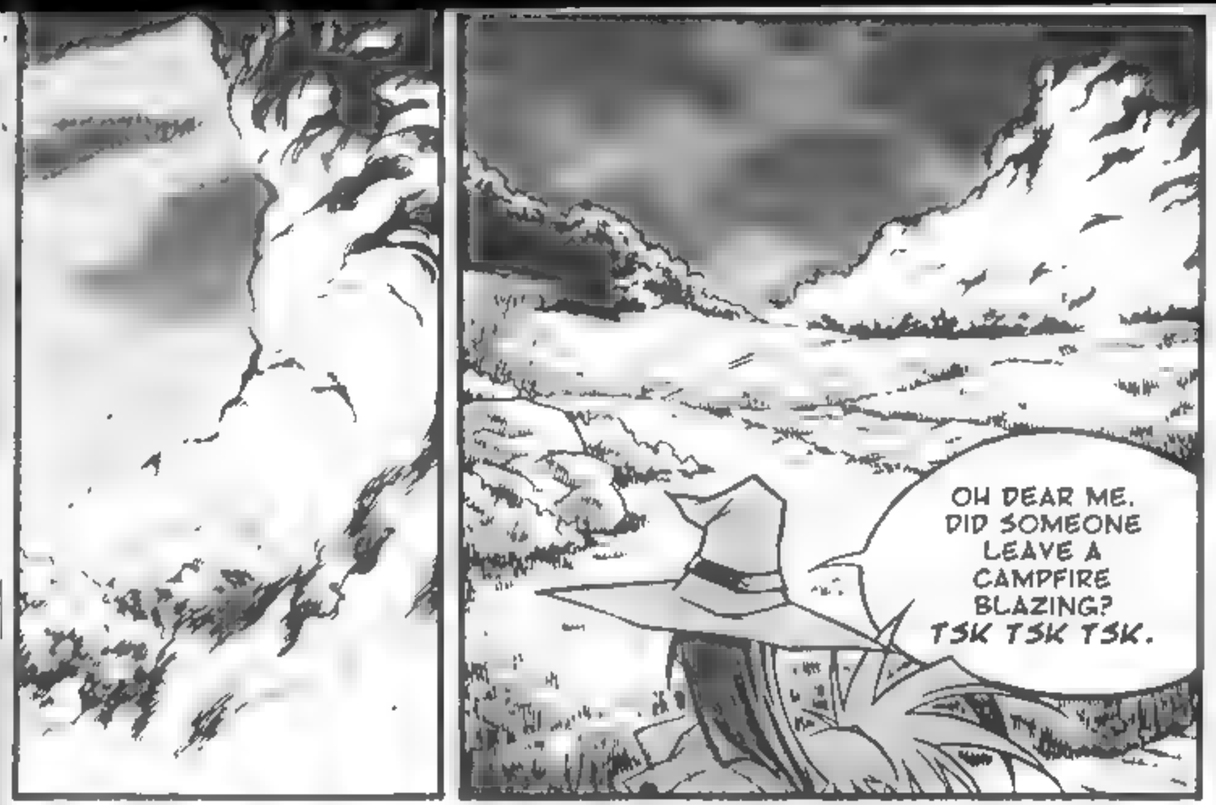
REST YOUR CONCERNS, HEXION.

SIR, ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? I MEAN, SETTING FIRE TO THE FOREST IS--

IF WE LEAVE WITHOUT TORCHING THESE WOODS, POWERS WILL MANIFEST, AND A MUCH *LARGER* CALAMITY SHALL BEFALL US.

LET'S GO, HEXION!

SERIOUSLY?


OH DEAR ME. DID SOMEONE LEAVE A CAMPFIRE BLAZING? TSK TSK TSK.

WELL, AT LEAST IT'S A LIFELESS FOREST...

BE GONE, *WOMAN!* AND TAKE THAT CHILD WITH YOU!!

Daddy!!

PLEASE!

BUT WHY...?!

Mommy!!

Michelle!!

NO...NO...NO...NO.

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE HE SURVIVED THAT ATTACK

HE IS *DEFINITELY* PART OF THE BLOODLINE.

BEFORE EVIL HAS A CHANCE TO SPROUT, WE NEED TO *ELIMINATE* HIM.

That...that symbol?!!

I AM SORCERESS STONIA...

SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THE MADOSA GUILD'S THIRD LEVEL.

The Madosa Guild?!!

CHUN-LANG! BE CAREFUL!!

Ryushi? And the whole city...it's under attack!

Noru?!

OOF!

COME QUICK! OUR TEACHER'S BEING ATTACKED!!

Cho-hyun...?

Teacher?!

What's this? A ring...?

YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS.

THE POWER OF THAT RING--

TO A PERSON LIKE YOU...

...THAT RING--

THE POWER OF THE RING...

THAT'S WHY YOU HAVE TO *DIE!*

N-N-
NOOOOOO!!

huff

huff

huff

UNGH, NOT THAT *SAME* NIGHTMARE AGAIN.

DOMI

SNIFF

JUST WHEN I THINK I'VE *FINALLY* FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT, HERE I GO DREAMIN' IT AGAIN.

HEH?

WHO... ARE YOU?

ZZZZ...

CROOSH!

ACH!

DAH HA HA HA HA!

THEY ONLY HAD ONE ROOM LEFT AND ONLY ONE TINY 'ITTLE BED! SO, I CLAIMED THE WINDOW!

UM, THANKS FOR THAT, BUT YOU D.DN'T SEE ANYONE ELSE IN THE WOODS, DID YA?

LET'S SEE. WELL, I WAS LOST FOR THREE DAYS, BUT, UH, NOPE...NO ONE ELSE.

COMP

So, I was the only one left. But Sang couldn't've just disappeared.

The last I saw Hwee-Young, he was unconscious.

And poor Gigantes... he's probably throwin' a tantrum!

KUMMY.

And that creepy old man... I had so many questions for him.

But especially that brat Sang!!

After she took off her rings, her entire personality went schizoid. That's gotta mean somethin'.

OKAY, TIME TO STOP.

THAT BROUGHT BACK THE BAD MEMORY.

BLEEEH!

SORRY TO BE PARTIN' WAYS, BUT I'VE GOT SOMEWHERES TO BE

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP, THOUGH. IF IT'S OUR DEST'NY, WE'LL CROSS PATHS AGAIN.

...IT'S *ATHENA*. IT'S A MAGIC SCHOOL.

IT'S ONE OF THE FEW PLACES THAT I KNOW OF THAT'LL TRAIN A WARRIOR.

OH, YES YES!

YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?

OH! WHERE'S YOUR DESTINATION? MAYBE WE'RE HEADIN' TO THE SAME PARTS.

WELL... I KNOW THE LOCATION, BUT I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO GET THERE.

HMM...

HMM.

WELL, THE ONLY THING IS

YOU'RE NOT SURE HOW TO GET THERE?

NOPE, FIRST TIME.

HEY, BUSTER, IT'S NOT NICE TO GET A LADY'S HOPES UP!

NOOO, THING IS... I'VE HEARD OF A SIMILAR PLACE.

I THINK IT'S CALLED THE ZEUS MAGIC ACADEMY.

AND I HEAR IT TRAINS WARRIORS, TOO. HEY! MAYBE THEY GOT SOME CONNECTION.

MIGHT AS WELL LOOK 'EM UP, NO?

SIGH!

WAIT, WAIT... ONE OF THEM PLACES WAS AN ALL BOYS' SCHOOL.

IT'S FINE! I'M SURE I CAN TRACK IT DOWN.

HMM...

OOOH, SO DOES THAT MEAN THE SCHOOL YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR'S AN ALL GIRLS' SCHOOL?

MAYBE, MAYBE NOT.

BESIDES, I'VE ALREADY GRADUATED FROM ZEUS.

THAT'S WHY I'M THINKIN' OF TRACKIN' DOWN ATHENA THIS GO AROUND

WHA?

BUT YOU'RE A CUTIE! HOW'D YA ATTEND A BOYS' SCHOOL?!

THE SECRET'S IN THE RING.

BUH-BYE NOW!

...

HEH.

ZEUS, THEN ATHENA... I'M SUPPOSIN' OLYMPUS'LL BE AFTER THAT?

WHATEVER PATH YOU CHOOSE, I WISH YOU LUCK, CHUN-LANG.

I agree. She should not depend solely on their power.

Blast! I knew this would happen!! She shouldn't have taken off any more rings!

Don't kid yourselves, you stupid fools!

I don't know. What would've been a better idea?

What? Can't we just leave it like it is?

Blah blah blah!

Why don't you shut up already?!

Quest 45

MMNN...?

WH-WHERE AM I?

AH, GOOD. YOU'RE AWAKE NOW.

YOU'VE BEEN *UNCONSCIOUS* FOR THREE WHOLE DAYS.

WHO... ARE YOU?

I KNOW YOU'RE DRAINED, BUT I NEED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS. WOULD THAT BE ALL RIGHT?

OH, WAIT... BEFORE YOU DO THAT--

PLEASE, GO ON.

UH...UM, THIS MIGHT BE A STRANGE QUESTION, BUT...

I AM THE HEAD OF THIS VILLAGE.

MY NAME IS SHUMIRO.

WHERE AM I?

YOU ARE IN AN ELVEN TOWN AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST OF ANTS.

...UM...

WHO AM I?

WHAT?!

BUT WHY NOT?! SERIOUSLY! WHY NOT?!

FOR WHAT REASON?! WHO SAYS?! IT WAS *OKAY* BEFORE!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! YOU CAN'T GO INTO THE FOREST!

IRIS, YOU KNOW IT'S BECAUSE THE *TROLLS* OUT THERE ARE *EXPANDING* THEIR TERRITORY. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

MURRR

COWARD!

C'MON, IRIS...

PFFT

NAH NAH NAH NAH!

YOU'RE JUST A BIG COWARD! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE *ALWAYS* FAILIN' AT EVERYTHIN'!

HOW DARE YOU TALK TO YOUR ELDERS LIKE THAT!

EH?

EH

COME ON, YOU LITTLE RASCAL.

AAAH!

TVK

I'D QUIT SQUIRMING. YOU'RE ONLY MAKING IT WORSE

AAAHH! LEMME GO!!

AH, HEXION.

SIR, WOULD YOU JUST LOOK AT WHO IS CAUSING TROUBLE AGAIN?

HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?! PUT ME DOWN!!

QUIT EMBARRASSIN' ME, YOU BIG DUMMY!!

WHAT? I WAS THINKING OF RUNNING OFF WITH YOU AND GETTING *MARRIED*.

HEXION, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

EH HEH HEH! I KID. I KID! SHE IS BUT A MERE CHILD.

OUCH!

YOU STUPID IDIOT! YOU SEA SLUG! ANEMONE! TROLL! OGRE! GOBLIN! ORC! OCTOPUS! HYDRA! *ZOMBIE!!!*

I-IRIS...YOU...

HEXION, YOU'RE NOT GETTIN' ASKED TO PLAY DOLLIES *EVER* AGAIN!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

DUMB... B-BRAT.

OWW OWW *OWW!!*

WHAT A BABY.

TO BE SO EFFICIENT WITHOUT A BOW AND ARROW... HER SKILLS ARE ALWAYS SURPRISING TO SEE IN ACTION

YOU MEAN HER *MAGIC* BOW?

CLENCH

OUUGH!

THE ONE ONLY YOUR FATHER AND IRIS ARE CAPABLE OF WIELDING?

I SUPPOSE AT SUCH A TENDER AGE IT'S HER NATURAL TALENT.

AND THIS IS ALL THAT...

...I WAS ABLE TO OBSERVE WHILE IN THE FOREST.

I COULD NOT GRASP AN EXPLANATION FOR WHAT I SAW, BUT I WAS HOPING THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FILL IN SOME OF THOSE BLANKS.

YEAH, I'M...I'M *REAL* SORRY. I WISH I COULD BE MORE HELP

SO YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL?

IF SO, THEN THAT IS A CONDITION KNOWN AS *AMNESIA*.

.....

WHICH ONE IS IT?

HUH?

YOU *CAN'T* REMEMBER?

OR YOU *WON'T* REMEMBER?

...

I...CAN'T REMEMBER? WON'T REMEMBER?

UM, EXCUSE ME, BUT WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

...

THERE'S A *DISTINCT* DIFFERENCE, BUT LET'S MOVE ON.

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO *REMOVE* YOUR GLOVES?

WHY DO I HAVE 'EM WHEN IT'S SO WARM, ANYWAY?

ILOVU

UNNNHE

WHAT'S... WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WHY WON'T IT COME OFF?! ARE THEY GLUED ON?!

INTERESTING.

THE GLOVES ARE NOT EVEN SNUG ON YOUR HANDS. THEY JUST *WON'T* BUDGE.

WE LOOKED ALL OVER, BUT WE COULD NOT FIND ANY OTHER TYPE OF SHACKLES.

WAIT...

THEN THAT MEANS...

...YOU TOOK OFF MY CLOTHES?!

YOU PERVERTED ELF!!

NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL. I GOT THE VILLAGE GIRLS TO DO IT.

DON'T YOU SWEET-TALK ME! I *KNOW* YOU!

YOU WERE *WATCHIN'*, WEREN'TCHA?! YOU *DIRTY* LITTLE ELF!!

NEEN

AAAAAHH

HEH?

scratch

I SHALL HAVE YOUR DINNER SENT UP NOW.

H-HOLD IT!!

YES?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT FOOD FOR *THREE!*

I'LL. I'LL BE SURE TO DO THAT.

UNBELIEVABLE!!

WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH THIS GLOVE?

IS THERE SOMETHING *HIDING* IN THERE?

To Be Continued in PhD: Phantasy Degree Volume 5!!

THE MANGA ARTIST'S STUDIO

망가져 화실

놀고싶다

I WANNA PLAY

Was he always like this?

Yep, he's finally lost it

C'mon, bro! Let's hang out together!

Battler The Flow

uh, Mister?

Ever clever

HELLO, HOW DO YOU DO? I'M THE IMPOSSIBLE *BATTLER!*

La la la la..

CRAZY BATTLER!

Yeah!

MR. BATTLER!!

I DO APOLOGIZE THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO INTRODUCE MYSELF UNTIL VOLUME 4

BOW!

I have a lot of projects that I'm currently involved in besides "PhD," and everything's just been a big whirl. Honestly though, it's only when I am working on a series that I feel the most alive. As long as I am not fired at the end of each project... I'll be fine.

brilling

BLEEP

YES YES... I'LL HAVE IT DONE IN A JIFFY!

I really do love drawing manga...

...but the one thing that I really can't handle is...

THAT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY MY GAMES!!

Projects are falling from the sky!

Jumper Rubber Tetanus Implant

S.V.C 2

Tekken 4

All the shrink wrapped games!

TOO...MANY... PROJECTS! I'LL *NEVER* BE ABLE TO BEAT ALL THESE GAMES!!

I did think about changing my hobby to making models... (Especially the Master Grade Gundam kits!)

Whoa!

Qubeley Mark II

...but making models took up just as much time. (I had twice as many unfinished models as finished ones!)

WHEN ARE YOU GONNA FINISH MAKING THOSE?

LATER NEVER

SO THE POINT IS THAT HE WANTS TO PLAY?

WHY DOESN'T HE JUST WORK HARDER TO FINISH ALL HIS STUFF EARLY?!

Hmph!

ARE YOU DONE *TALKING?!*

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS TRY TO BE IN MY SHOES!! I'M NOT A MANUSCRIPT MACHINE!!!

THINK ABOUT HOW I FEEL WHEN I SEE ALL THE DUST BUILDING UP ON MY GAMES!! GRRR!!!

끄악!!

He's lost it!

Just ignore him and he'll go away!

But still...

A-ARGGH!!

...manga makes me happy.

Cuckoo!

My arm hurts.

What tone pattern should I put here?

Gimme some **good** backgrounds to draw!

Even so...

Sigh...

I still want to play games.

끼악!

BOO-HOO

TURTLE

으르아~ SNARLLL

HEY, ALL YOU *STUPID*, INFURIATING WRITERS!!

CAN'T YOU JUST HURRY UP AND *FINISH* ALREADY?!

whap whap

WHAT DID YOU *DO* WITH ALL THAT EXTRA TIME?!!

I DON'T START WRITING UNTIL I'VE GOT A GIG, ALL RIGHT?!

Now, don't tell me what to do. I'm so tired I might hit something vital.

툭 툭

힝 힝

hwing hwing hwing

.....

Eiji

We must begin mediation with non-smokers. Our time is growing short.

Second-hand smoker

Why are you following me?

SANG IS...

...A SEXUAL DEVIANT.

I DON'T THINK I SHOULD HAVE TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU.

Kraph.

My secret's out?!

MY WAY

Whatever.

NAAAH!

AND WHAT ABOUT THOSE CLOTHES?! THEY'RE SUSPICIOUS!!

YOUR BODY KEEPS CHANGING AND YOUR CLOTHES NEVER GET TIGHTER!

THEY'RE NOT EVEN SPANDEX! SO, ARE THEY PART OF YOUR... BODY?

I HAVE AMNESIA.

HUH?

DON'T YOU RUN AWAY!!

I wanna know, too!

LOVE Zombie

AHH, SMOOTH.

SCRIBBLE

LATELY, IT'S FEELING AS IF MY LIFE'S GETTING SHORTER.

AND ALL THOSE PEOPLE DYING OF CANCER, MAN.

HA! SO, YOU WANNA BET I CAN'T QUIT SMOKING?! YOU'RE ON!

Ridiculous!!!

Tilth

SO, YOU'RE THINKING OF QUITTING SMOKING? SHOULD I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO QUIT AS WELL? FINE.

치이익

HEY, KIDS!

Oh man, it's Chee-young. If he sees me, he's gonna wanna smoke!

HEY, CHEE-YOUNG.

HEY HEY, YOUR FRIEND'S HERE. YOU GOTTA SMOKE!

I...I...I...

Oh man, a cigarette!

OKAY!!! ♡

You're a good friend.

Sigh...

OH, TOTALLY.

WHEN A FRIEND GIVES YOU ONE, ISN'T IT SO MUCH TASTIER?

IT SURE IS HARD.

It's located near Hong-dae, but nobody wants to accept that. **"If it's 20 minutes away from Hong-dae, then it's not near Hong-dae!"**

OVERTIME OFFICE

He's three months past deadline, but take a guess why! Yeah, he's always off playing video games!

Bedroom/Arcade room

Love Zombie's cubical shows off his passion for **Tekken** and **Starcraft.**

Here we have the owner of the studio, Battler. He's always daydreaming about what he'd rather be doing!

I want to play games.

Hi, how are you?

The only woman in the artists' studio.

Project Room

Kitchen

YUM!

YUM!

Bathroom

Hey, move along! There's no show here!

Chickenhead drops by and helps out occasionally. He eats us out of dried seaweed, though.

Turtle hates being called "Grumbler." He never has much to say, but, then again, he's constipated today.

In the Next Volume of...

PhD

PHANTASY DEGREE

A young man named Oedipus has lost his little sister Iris. He fears she has wandered into the dangerous and troll-infested Forest of Ants! Despite struggling to remember her identity and purpose, Sang and the elf Hexion set of to rescue Iris from the dangers of the dark forest... and the clutches of kidnapping trolls! Along the way, they encounter some students from the Athena Magic Academy. And everyone's favorite demon, Dev, makes a surprise appearance! Will he be able to help Sang recover her lost memories?

HE LANDED KINDA BADLY. I THINK HE'S GONNA BE OUTTA THE GAME FOR A WHILE.
UNNNHH!
RUUHH!
DO YOU THINK HE JUMPED FROM ALL THE WAY UP THERE?
crumble crumble
WOW, HE'S LUCKY IT'S JUST A SPRAIN.
HUH?
YOU DUMMY! DON'T DO THAT NEXT TIME, KAY?
OR IF YOU HAVE TO, AT LEAST MAKE SURE YOU STRETCH FIRST.
Tsk tsk tsk!
RAAARRGHH!!

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